



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title: AEP Energy Partners, Inc.: Export Authorization EA-318-D

Program or Field Office: Grid Deployment Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Nationwide

Proposed Action Description:

AEP Energy Partners, Inc. (Applicant or AEP-EP) applied to the United States Department of Energy (DOE) Grid Deployment Office for renewed authorization to export electricity to Mexico pursuant to Section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act (FPA).

AEP-EP intends to "purchase the electric energy to be exported to Mexico in the wholesale energy market pursuant to voluntary agreements with electric utilities and federal power marketing agencies." AEP-EP seeks to renew its authority to "export electric energy from the United States of America ('United States') to Mexico over any authorized international electric transmission facilities that are appropriate for 'open access' transmission by third parties." The existing international transmission facilities to be utilized by the Applicant have previously been authorized by Presidential permits issued pursuant to Executive Order 10485, as amended, and are appropriate for open access transmission by third parties. The Presidential permits for these facilities were issued by DOE after an appropriate level of NEPA review.

DOE has determined that the export of electric energy to Mexico by AEP-EP would not impair the sufficiency of electric power supply within the United States and would not impede or tend to impede the coordination in the public interest of facilities within the meaning of FPA § 202(e).

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B4.2 - Export of electric energy

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

STEVEN Digitally signed by
BLAZEK STEVEN BLAZEK
Date: 2023.05.02
10:43:16 -04'00'

NEPA Compliance Officer: